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## National Park Service News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: MAY 3, 2005  
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### National Parks Offer Good Old Fashioned Fun for Visitors

WASHINGTON, D.C.— The National Park Service (NPS) is pleased to kick-off the upcoming travel season with many new and exciting adventures awaiting park visitors, as well as traditional programs that families come back time and again to enjoy. From the shores of Maine and Alaska to the Rocky Mountains of Colorado to the warm beaches of California and the Virgin Islands, national parks offer something for everyone.

NPS Director Fran Mainella said, “These magnificent places pay homage to our ancestors and inspire our children to become better stewards of the parks for tomorrow. National parks have the power to stir our souls, reinvigorate our spirit, and renew our commitment. They provide incredible opportunities to experience the marvelous natural and cultural heritage of our country. I welcome you to our parks.”

The National Park Service has developed and made available a web site to help inform visitors about some of the park events and activities that have been planned for the upcoming travel season and information about what’s new in national parks this year. Visit the “*National Parks: The Place to be for Family Fun*” website at: [http://www.nps.gov/pub\\_aff/parks2005/index.htm](http://www.nps.gov/pub_aff/parks2005/index.htm) to learn more about what’s happening in national parks across the country.

Some summer highlights at our parks include:

- Visitors to Eisenhower National Historic Site (PA) will get to travel back in time as they enjoy a Fifties Weekend, June 11-12. Families will see Detroit’s finest 1950s cars, rock and roll, hula hoop and much more!
- On May 7<sup>th</sup> at Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument (ID), visitors will delight in learning how nature can assist us to succeed as unique and attentive individuals.
- On June 18-19, Homestead National Monument of America (NE) is hosting Homestead Days, where visitors will enjoy a program presented by cast members from the television series “Little House on the Prairie.” Volunteers will demonstrate antique farming practices and exhibit many homesteading traditional arts.

- On July 8-10, the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park (MD) is having its CanalFest where children of all ages will enjoy activities including music, walking tours, programs, exhibits, crafts, food and much more.

The National Park Service always recommends stopping by the park's visitor center to get the latest, most up-to-date park information. In addition, NPS reminds visitors that safety is critical, and hikers should stay on marked trails and let family members and/or friends know their whereabouts. Remember to dress appropriately for the elements and activities you are going to engage in, and it's always best to have plenty of water on hand. Park Rangers are easily recognizable in their green and gray uniforms. Ask questions...that's what they are there for!

The National Park Service preserves the natural and cultural resources and values of 388 units of the National Park System for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of current and future generations. The National Park System covers more than 84 million acres across America. The NPS also manages a variety of programs in cooperation with multiple partners to extend the benefits of natural and cultural resource conservation and outdoor recreation.

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